



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GlendaleAZ.com/Fire

Glendale Fire Department

6829 North 58th Drive / Glendale, Arizona 85301

623-930-4400



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CONTACT: Capt. Michael Young, PIO, 623-986-0148

FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDS RESIDENTS FIREWORKS ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

Glendale, Ariz. — With New Year's Eve on Saturday and most people's celebration plans set, the Glendale Fire Department wants to remind residents that consumer fireworks present an extreme danger, not only to citizens but also to firefighters and other first responders who are the first to arrive at emergencies involving fireworks.

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, from 2009-2013, fire departments responded to an average of 18,500 fires caused by fireworks. These fires included 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and 16,900 outside and other fires.

In 2014, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 10,500 people for fireworks related injuries; 51% of those injuries were to the extremities, and 38% were to the head.

The risk of fireworks injury is highest for young people ages 5-19.

Although the Glendale Fire Department encourages everyone not to use fireworks if you choose to use them, please follow these safety tips:

- Only use permitted consumer fireworks. Fireworks purchased in other states or countries may not be legal in Arizona.
- Use good common sense and always follow the directions on each firework.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Always have an adult present when fireworks are in use.
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass, trees, and combustible materials.

- Have a bucket of water and a continuous water source (garden hose) available whenever possible.
- Put used fireworks in a bucket of water overnight before draining and disposing of in an outdoor trash container.
- Never dispose of unused fireworks by placing them in a trash container, as they pose a serious fire hazard.
- Light only one item at a time and keep a safe distance.
- Remember, some fireworks, like sparklers, burn at several hundred degrees and can cause severe injury or property damage.

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